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Subject

Vietnamese "ats and Bonzes in

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- l. There are three principal pagodas in Bangkok used by the Viet Minh. They are known to the Siamese as Wat Yuen (Annamese pagodas). The priests (bonzes) are Vietnamese, and the audiences and congregations are principally so.
- The best known pagoda is the Wat Yuen in Padsai Road, near Yawarat Road which is used principally for political meetings. A wore important Vist Minh stronghold is the Wat Yuen at Bang Phu, across the river from Sam Saen. The third and possibly most important wat used by the Viet Minh is the rebuilt one near the Sanitorium of Seventh Day Adventists which is called the Wat Nang Leang. It is near the Nang Leang Police Station off Krung Kasem Road, and is mainly used by Vietnamese in Tran Van Giau's clique.
- There are six bonzes at Wat Nang Leang, the chief one of whom is Buu An. Buu An was born in Cochin China in approximately 1903, and came to Siam in about 1923. He has a good education in Siamese and Chinese literature. He enjoys the favor of the Simese ecclesiastical authorities, and has no official position in the Viet kinh although he supervises the work of Tran Van liau's Can Bo. He seems to enjoy the confidence of the Chinese who reportedly gave him 200,000 baht for the rebuilding of the wat (C-6).

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Comment. For previous reports on Vietnamese wats and bonzes in Bangkok and the personalities involved, see The present report is considered the most up-to-date and correct description of the subject. In this connection, it is not believed that Bun An is identical with Bao Despite similarities in their written names, the Annamese pronunciations for them are quite different. Although it has been reported that both have similar functions as treasurers of Viet Minh funds, and there is some similarity in biographical details concerning them, it now seems to be established that Buu An is a bonze at the Wat Nang Leang and Bao An at the Wat Bang Phu, the locations of which are quite different.)

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